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150, route de Ferney
1211 Geneva 20

J. Bausweir

MINUTES

OF THE

MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

OF THE

WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

20 - 22 November 1975
Meeting held in Nairobi, Kenya

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WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Nairobi, Kenya

20-22 November 1975

1. OPENING ACTIONS

A. Introduction and worship

The meeting convened at 9.00 on Thursday, 20 November 1975. Dr Thomas and Miss Webb shared the chairing of the meeting.

Opening worship was led by the Moderator, prayers on 21 November by Dr Rossel, and closing worship by the Vice-Moderator.

B. Roll call

The General Secretary called the roll of those present, presenting apologies from His Holiness Patriarch German, the Rev. Dr John Coventry Smith, the Rt Rev. A.H. Zulu, His Eminence Metropolitan Meliton of Chalcedon, Pastor K. Gottschald and the Rt Hon. Earl of March.

C. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held in Geneva, 14-18 April 1975, having been previously circulated, were confirmed.

The following corrections to the Minutes of the Central Committee held in West Berlin, 11-18 August 1974, were noted:

p. 37: 3. The Central Committee resolves ... guidelines for future work of the Programme be submitted for discussion and decision ...

p. 69, Substitutes: Include Rt Rev. Per Lønning, Church of Norway, for Rt Rev. K. Stoylen, and Most Rev. John of San Francisco and Western USA, Orthodox Church in America, for Rt Rev. Valerian D. Trifa.

D. Adoption of agenda

The agenda as amended was adopted.

2. REPORT OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY

a. The General Secretary reported that the most important task in the last six months had been the preparation for the Assembly. Uppsala to Nairobi and the Workbook had been published, and staff visits had been geared to involvement with the churches throughout the world in their preparatory work. Dr Potter mentioned particularly the meetings held in Rhodes, Etchmiadzin, Moscow, and East Lansing, USA.

b. Dr Potter then referred to a number of major meetings and visits which had taken place. There had been meetings of Commissions and sub-units; in May, ACLD had integrated with WACC which had become a new body with a fraternal relation to the WCC. There had been a large staff participation in the German Kirchentag. In Canada the 50th anniversary of the United Church and the 100th anniversary of the autonomy of the Presbyterian Church had been celebrated and there had been a Consultation of United Churches. Miss Bam had attended the UN Conference on the occasion of International Women's Year, following which a document on the role of the WCC in UN meetings had been prepared for discussion by the Assembly. An "Ecumenical hearing on nuclear energy" had been held in June. In July a first meeting of representatives of the regional conferences of churches and the WCC had discussed mutual relationships and it was hoped that the Assembly might set directions for the future. A revised edition of the NCC Directory had been published. A consultation on "Christian faith and the changing face of science and technology" had been held in Mexico. In September the Honorary President and General Secretary had attended the 50th anniversary of the Stockholm Life and Work Conference. Also in that month a consultation on the theological issues raised by the Programme to Combat Racism had been arranged jointly by PCR and Faith and Order, and CCPD had held a consultation on "Ecumenical development education". In October a consultation had taken place on universal Christian responsibility in regard to the Middle East, in which there had been fresh discussion on the political situation, concern for the issue of Jerusalem and a call to dialogue among Christians, Jews and Muslims. A document prepared by this meeting would form part of the Assembly work on the Middle East. More recently, Dr Visser 't Hooft and himself had participated in a ceremony celebrating the completion of the ecumenical translation of the Bible in French, a unique effort of Roman Catholic, Protestant and Orthodox biblical scholars.

c. The General Secretary then listed a number of visits he had made: to countries in Eastern Europe (GDR, Poland, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, USSR) for discussions with the churches in preparation for the Assembly and with state authorities, particularly on questions of human rights; to Scotland to address the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland and the Council of the Episcopal Church of Scotland; to the Ecumenical Patriarchate, where he had discussed Orthodox participation in the WCC and the question of

Jerusalem; and to Finland, where the churches had expressed eagerness for a WCC meeting to be held in their country.

d. The General Secretary spoke of a number of situations of tension in which the WCC had been involved. Two staff members had visited Iraq and prepared a substantial report on the Kurds. A staff team had been to the Middle East and, following the UN resolution on Zionism, the General Secretary had issued a statement which had been widely used. Dr von Weizsäcker, Dr Simatupang, Mr Thompson and Mr Niilus had visited South Korea in connection with the trials of church leaders there and as a result some persons had been released. A letter had been sent to Mrs Gandhi protesting against the curtailment of human rights in India, but no reply had been received. Letters had also been sent to Chile when the Evangelical Church was threatened with closure and when Bishop Frenz was barred from returning. With regard to Angola, there had been a staff visit to the churches and when the three liberation movements split messages had been sent to each. A joint committee for aid had been set up. There had been a number of staff visits to Ethiopia to express solidarity with the churches and to explore ways of helping in the areas of drought and conflict.

e. Finally the General Secretary referred briefly to the financial situation of the WCC and to his letter to member churches and Assembly delegates. He hoped the committee would look carefully at the special report to the Assembly on this question.

3. DISCUSSION OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

A number of important issues were raised in the discussion of the General Secretary's report.

a. Issues concerned with human rights: In view of the cable received that some of the Korean delegates to the Assembly had been refused exit permits, there was discussion about the situation in Korea. It was agreed that an urgent message should be sent to the Korean Government requesting the involvement of the participants in the Assembly.

There was considerable discussion about the situation in the USSR, regarding the Vins case and the position of the German-speaking evangelical communities in south Russia. The possibility of a WCC visit to these communities was being investigated. Dr Vischer outlined the situation of these German-speaking citizens of the USSR in some detail.

b. UN resolution on Zionism: The General Secretary explained his public statement in opposition to the UN resolution on Zionism. Considerable discussion followed and it was estimated that it could be an issue in the Assembly. It was finally resolved that it would be appropriate to keep such

discussion, if it arose, within some specific limits and not, at this stage in the Assembly, to raise all the related questions.

c. Regional Councils: In response to an enquiry, Dr Brash reported on the consultation of regional council and WCC staffs. The Executive Committee welcomed the information on the greater exchange of views and encouraged the increasing possibility of contact between regional councils. A number of very fundamental questions remained unanswered and it was hoped that the Assembly might give consideration to some of these.

d. Situation in Angola: It was explained in greater detail, in answer to questions from Executive Committee members, that the relief programme had been continued and expanded with the full cooperation of the International Red Cross. A proposed official visit to the three liberation movements had proved impossible.

4. REPORT OF MEETING OF WCC OFFICERS

The General Secretary reported fully on the meeting of the Officers and the Moderator of the Finance Committee which had made certain decisions and recommendations regarding major cuts in the 1976 General Budget of the WCC. He indicated that he had communicated the nature of these decisions and recommendations to all member churches and all delegates to the Assembly. The main decisions had been as follows:

1. That cuts be made in 1976 budgets as follows:

a.	Communications Department	SFr. 300,000
b.	Faith and Order	110,000
c.	CCIA - New York Office	130,000
d.	No one-step increase on salaries	200,000
		SFr. 740,000

2. That the Executive Committee, meeting at Nairobi, be asked to act as follows:

   a. The Ecumenical Institute, Bossey, cease to be on General Budget by 30 June 1976, and it be closed by that date if no alternative form of financing is found. Saving for 1976 would be SFr. 500,000.

   b. The WCC involvement in the New York Office cease from 30 June 1976. Saving: SFr. 132,000.

   c. Savings on meetings in 1976: SFr. 50,000.

The General Secretary reported that the decisions were being implemented and discussions on detailed implications were continuing.

A substantial amount of time of the Executive was devoted to the particular recommendations regarding the Ecumenical Institute at Bossey and the financial support of the WCC Office in New York (see pp.12-14). Both issues were discussed in the Executive as a whole and by both the Policy Sub-Committee and the Finance Sub-Committee of the Executive.

5. ASSEMBLY PROGRAMME AND AGENDA

Mr Gill presented the proposed programme of the Assembly, drawing attention to a number of changes made since the last meeting of the Executive Committee. He mentioned particularly the reception by President Kenyatta on 2 December, the Presidents who would preside at the various sessions and the fact that the speaker on "From shackles of domination and oppression" would now be Mr Michael Manley, Prime Minister of Jamaica. In reply to a question from Dr Visser 't Hooft, the General Secretary suggested that the Business Committee should make a ruling on the time allowed to speakers from the floor in General Sessions.

Mr Gill then presented lists of proposed Assembly Officers and proposed membership of Assembly Committees. The lists were referred for detailed discussion to the Nominations Sub-Committee.

At a later session Miss Webb presented the report of the Nominations Sub-Committee, suggesting a number of changes. After some discussion and further amendments, the Executive Committee agreed:

i. to approve the lists of Assembly Officers and Committees as amended for nomination to the Assembly;

ii. that WCC Presidents and members of the Central Committee not already assigned on these lists were at liberty to attend any Policy Reference Committee.

In answer to a question, Dr Brash reported that it had been planned not to permit the distribution of any literature in the plenary hall except that of the Assembly itself. Other organizations which submitted requests could be authorized to distribute literature in the vestibule of the Conference Centre, and of course there was no control of what would be distributed outside.

A. Programme Guidelines Committee

Dr Raiser presented a paper entitled "Towards an agenda for the Programme Guidelines Committee", describing the task and

purpose of this Committee, the working procedure envisaged and a number of general issues to be considered. The Executive Committee agreed to accept the document as the basis for the agenda of the Programme Guidelines Committee.

B. Report of the Moderator of the Central Committee to the Assembly

Dr Thomas invited members of the Executive Committee to comment on the draft of his report to the Assembly. A number of individual suggestions were handed in.

C. Constitutional matters

a. Constituting the Assembly

A proposed formula for constituting the Assembly was presented. After discussion and amendment, the Executive Committee agreed on the following formula:

> The Fifth Assembly of the World Council of Churches will please come to order. This Assembly, having been opened by prayer at the celebration and worship yesterday, I now convene the first Business Session. Any problems concerning the size and identification, and the seating of delegations, will be referred to the Credentials Committee. Any matters referring to the Constitution will be taken up by Policy Reference Committee I.

b. Matters relating to the proposed revised Constitution

Dr Raiser presented a document on the revised Constitution.

i. Amendability of the revised Constitution

It was agreed after discussion that it was not necessary to make any new ruling but simply to clarify the existing situation, namely that the proposed amended Constitution, as circulated to the member churches, could be accepted or rejected by the Assembly in toto or in part but no new amendments could be introduced since the churches had not been consulted upon them.

ii. Appeal against Article V 2 c) viii) of revised Constitution

Dr Raiser reported that the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hannover had filed an appeal against the clause indicated above. The appeal referred equally to Rule III 1 a) ii). The Council of the Evangelical Church in Germany had associated itself with the appeal. The two member bodies pointed out that the 1968 Constitution in Article V i), last paragraph, stated that "the Central Committee ... shall strongly urge each church" to observe the provisions for adequate distribution of seats among

clerical and lay persons, leaving the authority for making decisions with the member church. By introducing the phrase "The Central Committee shall determine ..." into the revised Constitution and Rules this authority now seemed to be vested with the Central Committee, thus limiting the constitutional rights of the churches.

After considerable discussion, it was agreed that the matter be referred to Policy Reference Committee I of the Assembly.

iii. Sexist language in Article V 2 c) viii) and Rule III 1 a) ii)

There was some discussion on whether the phrase "men, women and young people" referred only to the lay persons listed or to the whole delegation of the churches. It was pointed out that it has in fact been applied in the wider context. It was agreed to refer the question to Policy Reference Committee I for clarification.

iv. Basic language

The Executive Committee agreed to recommend to the Assembly that the Constitution be discussed and adopted on the basis of the English text, and that the question of the French and German texts would be handled later. In the case of differing interpretations, the English text would be determinative.

v. Unit structure and by-laws

Dr Raiser pointed out that no by-laws for Unit Committees had yet been received, and the question of whether these should be prepared in the near future or delayed was referred to the new Central Committee.

It was agreed to refer to the Assembly, through Policy Reference Committee I, the revised by-laws of the Commissions on Faith and Order, World Mission and Evangelism, and International Affairs.

5. CORE GROUPS OF COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES

Dr Raiser submitted proposals gathered from various sub-units and their Commission meetings for possible members of the core groups of future commissions and work groups. This list was submitted to the Policy, Nominations and Staffing Sub-Committee. At a later stage Mr Johnson submitted a number of changes suggested by the Sub-Committee.

It was agreed:

i. that the list of names with approved changes be referred for action to the new Central Committee, with the understanding that some further changes might prove necessary in the light of discussion during the Assembly;

ii. to urge the new Central Committee to decide at Nairobi about membership in Unit Committees and to determine the number of representatives from the sub-units (proposed model size for Unit Committees: 40 members including three representatives for each sub-unit);

iii. that no convener be appointed for the core groups except in cases where a sub-unit needs to have authorized interim officers immediately. The core groups should be given freedom to appoint their own moderator and to suggest those to represent the sub-unit on the Unit Committee.

7. REPORTS FROM PROGRAMME UNITS

A. Faith and Witness

Dr Vischer reported on recent activities of the Unit and referred to the proposed new mandate of the Christian Medical Commission. He spoke of the meetings and consultations within the concerns of the Unit, in particular the meeting of Orthodox theologians on evangelism and liturgy in Etchmiadzin; the consultation of United Churches in Toronto; the consultation on the relationship between the Christian faith and ideologies; the follow-up of the violence/non-violence study; the Church and Society hearing on nuclear energy, and the consultation on Christian faith and the changing face of science and technology. It was agreed that the reports of the last four meetings would be presented to the Hearing on Unit I and, where appropriate, to Sections of the Assembly.

Mandate and future structural relationships of the Christian Medical Commission

It was noted that the mandate of CMC comes to an end in June 1976. The proposed new mandate, which was introduced by Mr Castro, had been approved by CWME and CICARWS and it was suggested that CMC should become a sub-unit of the regular structure of the WCC, with close liaison with other particular sub-units. The General Secretary proposed that the question of its exact location in the unit structure be held over until the Executive Committee in 1976. Mr McGilvray introduced the amendments regarding Roman Catholic participation in the CMC which were suggested by CMC staff after consultation with Roman Catholic authorities in Rome. He also reported that funding was assured for the next five years.

The Executive Committee agreed to the first meeting of the new

Central Committee the acceptance of the mandate as amended and that the question of the place of this sub-unit in the structure be held over for later decision.

The Moderator particularly thanked Mr McGilvray and his colleagues for the successful work of the Commission in the period of the first mandate.

B. Justice and Service

Mr Itty referred to the continuing programme interests of the sub-units in Unit II.

a. Proposals regarding structure of Unit

Mr Itty then introduced proposals for the future functioning of Unit II in line with the remit of the Structure Committee. The main elements had been discussed in the four Commissions. It was proposed that there should be a Unit Executive Committee; that a Director of one of the Commissions should serve for two years as Unit Coordinator; that there should be a Finance Officer and an Administrative and Personnel Officer for the Unit as a whole, and that a number of "interlink programmes" should be set up to avoid duplication and ensure effective collaboration. The proposed arrangements for the joint financing of the Unit would relieve the General Budget.

The Executive Committee expressed satisfaction at the proposals and agreed to refer the document to Policy Reference Committee I for information.

b. Ecumenical Development Cooperative Society

Mr Itty presented a report regarding the EDCS. This had been legally registered in Holland. The WCC and the Ecumenical Council of the Netherlands acted as the two founding bodies. An interim Board had been appointed and Mr Cyril Bennett was appointed as interim Director.

It was agreed to accept the report.

c. Programme to Combat Racism: report on action regarding banks

Mr Sjollema drew attention to a survey entitled "Ecumenical Involvement in Southern Africa". After considerable discussion on inaccuracies in some of the national contributions to this document, it was agreed that the document should be withdrawn from circulation.

Mr Sjollema and Mr Northam also reported on the reactions of the seven banks which they had been instructed to approach regarding the consortium arrangements for making loans available to South Africa. Replies had been received from

all the banks which, from the point of view of the WCC, were unsatisfactory.

The Executive Committee:

i. decided that none of its funds should be deposited with the following banks:

European American Banking Corporation
Deutsche Bank, West Germany
Société Générale, France
Midland Bank, UK
Amsterdam-Rotterdam Bank NV, The Netherlands
Société Générale de Banque SA, Belgium
Creditanstalt-Bankverein, Austria

ii. commended the initiatives already taken by member churches, NCCs, Christian agencies, ecumenical and other groups in pressing these banks to cease making loans to the South African Government and its agencies and encouraged them to continue the pressure through consultation, shareholder action and publicity, culminating in withdrawal of accounts if necessary;

iii. urged member churches in the countries concerned which have not yet undertaken such action to initiate similar programmes in an endeavour to persuade the banks to cease making loans to the South African Government and its agencies; and

iv. requested that a fuller study of the ethical and theological implications of the dialogue so far conducted with the banks be undertaken in Sections V and VI of the Assembly.

d. Fund for Reconstruction and Reconciliation in Indochina

Mr Itty also introduced a proposal regarding the future of the Fund for Reconstruction and Reconciliation in Indochina. In view of the changed situation in Indochina, it was being proposed by that body that its Board should become a committee with responsibility to Unit II, with a secretariat functioning from Geneva. After discussion, it was agreed to give approval to the proposed mandate, constitution and organizational plan for the Fund.

C. Education and Renewal

Miss Bam reported on progress in regard to Unit III, stressing particularly the problems associated with the Office of Education established in Uppsala. Despite valuable work being done, there were considerable difficulties in obtaining financial support. She pointed out that Dr Kennedy would shortly be leaving the staff, and that Professor Parmar would be working with the WCC as a consultant for the CCPD and the

Office of Education for the next two years. She referred to the consultation on family ministries and to activities in connection with International Women's Year.

Dr Raiser reported on the work of the Youth Task Force which had been functioning for some time. He referred to the pre-Assembly Youth Conference in Arusha with 100 participants. Proposals would be submitted to the Youth Workshop and the sub-hearing on youth work. It was anticipated that major suggestions would be forthcoming from the Hearing for consideration by the Policy Guidelines Committee. Miss Bam expressed appreciation of the cooperation her Unit had received from staff members in other Units.

8. APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

Dr Brash presented the applications for membership which had been received since the last meeting of the Executive Committee. After some discussion, the Executive Committee agreed to recommend to the Assembly that:

i. the Methodist Church in Tonga be received into membership of the WCC and authorized to appoint one delegate to this meeting of the Assembly;

ii. the Progressive National Baptist Convention be received into membership of the WCC and authorized to appoint two delegates to this meeting of the Assembly;

iii. the Church of the Lord (Aladura) be received into membership of the WCC and authorized to appoint three delegates to this meeting of the Assembly;

iv. the African Israel Church, Nineveh, be received into membership of the WCC and authorized to appoint one delegate to this meeting of the Assembly;

v. the Moravian Church in Surinam be received into membership of the WCC and authorized to appoint one delegate to this meeting of the Assembly;

vi. the African Church of the Holy Spirit be received as an associate member of the WCC and authorized to appoint one fraternal delegate to this meeting of the Assembly.

Criteria of Membership

After some discussion on the admission of small churches, the Executive Committee agreed to recommend that the Assembly refer to Policy Reference Committee I the question of the criteria of membership in the WCC, with particular reference to the question of the need to define the minimum size for a church received into associate membership.

9. THE FUTURE OF THE ECUMENICAL INSTITUTE

Considerable attention was given to the proposals of a sub-committee chaired by Dr Visser 't Hooft which had been set up to consider alternative ways of financing the Institute. Dr Vischer presented further explanations of the work of this committee and Dr Mbiti spoke of the need to reach a firm decision about the future of the Institute as soon as possible. The General Secretary stressed the fact that there was a universal desire to continue the Institute in some form, but that the financial facts had made the recommendation of the Officers unavoidable. Bishop Nichols questioned whether any change of status in the Institute would in fact stimulate the provision of further funds.

After further discussion the following statement was approved:

The Executive Committee received the recommendation of the Officers on the removal of the financing of the Ecumenical Institute from the General Budget.

Recognizing the critical financial situation of the General Budget and strongly aware of the importance of the Ecumenical Institute and of the widespread interest in its work expressed by the member churches, the Executive Committee urged that an alternative way of financing the future of the Institute be actively pursued. A proposal of ways and means of alternative financing (Appendix III) was discussed and generally endorsed.

On the recommendation of the Finance Sub-Committee, the Executive Committee further:

i. declared that the World Council of Churches dare not run the risk of incurring a deficit in General Budget operations;

ii. assured up to SFr. 750,000 for the support of the Ecumenical Institute, Bossey, in 1976;

iii. authorized a special effort, beginning at the Assembly, to assure funding for the balance of SFr. 500,000 needed by the Institute in 1976 and to secure the total amount needed for the budget of the Institute between 1 January 1977 and 28 February 1978;

iv. recommended that by the time of the meeting of the Executive Committee in the spring of 1976, the progress of the special funding efforts be assessed to assist the Institute with planning for the future; and

v. requested the General Secretary (i) to take steps for the reduction of the operating expenses of the Institute; (ii) to define procedures governing the effort to secure special funding for the Institute, in such manner as to protect against conflict between those efforts and the efforts to secure adequate funding for the General Budget of the WCC; and (iii) to pursue without delay arrangements for long-term funding of the Institute.

10. FUTURE OF THE NEW YORK OFFICE

Dr Marshall, as chairman of the US Conference, reported that the Executive of that body had received the decision of the Officers with understanding and great concern. He raised the following questions: (a) What are the functions required from the New York Office for the WCC? (b) How are these services to be financed? (c) Should the US Conference become an entirely separate body? He stressed that from the point of view of the WCC there were many important functions to be fulfilled with the member churches in the USA and that if the WCC ceased to have a New York Office it would make heavy new demands on the Geneva staff. These functions could be summarized as follows:

- providing services to staff in Geneva and making arrangements for their visits to the USA;
- soliciting contributions from member churches;
- participating in fund-raising from foundations and individuals for WCC projects;
- maintaining liaison with other ecumenical agencies or non-member churches;
- selling and distributing WCC publications;
- negotiating with publishers in USA;
- maintaining contact with the media in USA (information and interpretation, news releases, invitations to press to meetings, etc.).

The matter was discussed in both the Policy Sub-Committee and the Finance Sub-Committee, and after further discussion the following statement was approved:

> Recognizing that there is a need to eliminate from WCC General Budget allocations in 1976 to the North American Office maintained in New York jointly by the World Council of Churches and the United States Conference for the World Council of Churches, Inc., a sum of SFr. 132,000; and
>
> recognizing with gratitude at the same time the many services to the WCC and to the member churches in the USA and Canada which that Office has rendered in the past and continues to carry out; and
>
> recognizing further the complexity of matters regarding the relationship between the WCC and its American member churches at various levels, including their ecumenical cooperation at such levels and in a variety of conciliar bodies and consortia; and
>
> bearing in mind the plan for a reorganization of the operation of the US Conference and the wider sharing of duties and efforts in matters of communications, financial

resources, and ecumenical education, which was adopted by the Executive Committee of the US Conference in October 1975, for implementation in 1976 and in the years ahead;

it was agreed:

i. that the contribution from the WCC General Budget to the WCC's share in the maintenance of the joint WCC-US Conference North America Office be reduced in 1976 by US$ 53,055 (approximately SFr. 132,000);

ii. that if at all possible the Office be maintained as a joint Office and that to this end negotiations be urgently pursued between the General Secretariat in Geneva and the US Conference, the American member churches and other appropriate organs to find alternative means of supporting such a joint Office;

iii. that simultaneously with these negotiations there be carried out among the appropriate parties a thorough consultation as to how relationships in matters of programme, financial cultivation, communication, ecumenical education, etc., might best be promulgated through such an Office and/or through other channels; and

iv. that a progress report on the endeavours thus undertaken be submitted to the first meeting of the WCC Executive Committee in 1976, on the basis of which further determinations regarding finance, and the scope and duties of, as well as responsibilities for, such an Office in North America would need to be made.

11. REPORT OF THE FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE

Dr Payne presented the following report of the Finance Sub-Committee:

1. 1974 Accounts

An audit scrutiny sub-committee reported:

a. that its attention had been drawn to a printer's error in the Financial Report for 1974. On page 7, the dollar figures for the PCR Special Fund should read:

Credit balance at 31 December 1973	$ 300,432.65
Receipts in 1974	388,595.15
	689,027.80
Payments in 1974	449,959.64
Credit balance at 31 December 1974	$ 239,068.16

b. that, after examining the notes to the auditors' report on page 4 of the printed Financial Report, they had concluded that those notes represented reasonable action by the auditors to protect themselves but did not indicate anything illegitimate in operations.

The Finance Sub-Committee therefore agreed to recommend:

that the report of the auditors be received and the audited accounts of the World Council of Churches for the year ended 31 December 1974 be accepted.

2. Review of finances generally

The Finance Sub-Committee, by reason of the limitation of time, received a brief summary of the review of the financial position generally, which will be submitted to the Finance Committee of the Assembly. The points calling for attention are noted in item 4 of this report.

The Finance Sub-Committee noted that, whereas at the time of the Executive Committee meeting in April 1975, it had been estimated that exchange profits totalling about $ 700,000 had been made in 1974, it was found when the accounts were finally closed that the amount had been grossly over-estimated and that the actual exchange profits in 1974 were only $ 29,269.

3. Reduction of SFr. 300,000 in 1976 budget of Communication Department decided by the Officers' Meeting

The Finance Sub-Committee received a report from Mr Hilke of the ways in which this reduction was planned with the assurance that expenditure would be reduced by SFr. 300,000. The economies would be made in such a way that the basic structures of the Communication Department would be maintained.

4. Finance Report to the Assembly on 26 November

The Finance Sub-Committee discussed in detail and at length the draft of the above report. This, of course, included a general review of the overall financial position.

It was agreed that there should be made available to the Assembly, with the report, the Composite Statement of Needs 1975-76 and the printed Financial Report for 1974. This would provide participants with the basic information for their participation in the Hearing on finance.

The Finance Sub-Committee approved the general content of the report but agreed to recommend that there be added:

a. a brief comment on the Composite Statement, including an explanation that the 1976 figures include what now seems to be an unnecessarily high provision for inflation - 12%;

b. reference to the financial problems of CWME which, in the light of information since the Officers' meeting, may involve a substantial further addition to the 1976 deficit position on the General Budget;

c. reference to the plans for the financing of the Office of Education, including the Portfolio for Biblical Studies, which would also increase the General Budget problem;

d. reference to the plans for Unit II to relieve the General Budget of responsibility for financing CCIA and PCR;

e. reference to the hopeful outlook for the Assembly budget and appreciation to the member churches which by special contribution and special efforts to finance the travel of their own delegations, have made this possible.

The Finance Sub-Committee finally agreed to recommend:

that authority be given to Dr Payne and Mr Northam to prepare the report in final form, and in particular:

i. to add a brief opening paragraph and brief conclusion drafted by Dr Payne;

ii. to add the items listed above; and

iii. to revise the passage at the foot of page 3 and the first part of page 4 in the light of the actions finally taken by the Executive Committee on the recommendations regarding Bossey and the New York Office made by the Officers' meeting.

The original draft report had been made available to all members of the Executive Committee. Any members wishing to make suggestions for revisions or improvements were invited to do so.

In the discussion which followed the presentation of the report, it was made clear that the financial difficulties anticipated by CWME for the year 1977 were likely to be already operative in 1976 and that this could mean substantial additional problems for the General Budget. Dr Payne, on behalf of the Finance Sub-Committee, particularly appealed to the CWME that when a decision was finally taken on this matter there should be as much flexibility as possible.

The Executive Committee <u>received</u> the report of the Finance Sub-Committee and <u>endorsed</u> its proposals. It also expressed appreciation to Dr Payne for his willingness to present the Finance Report to the Assembly.

12. FIXED DATE OF EASTER

Dr Vischer reported that, in line with previous decisions, the General Secretary had written to all member churches with the proposal that the fixed date of Easter should be on the Sunday following the second Saturday in April. Sixty churches had expressed agreement and also approved the suggestion that the Assembly should take some initiative, but a number of churches had not agreed. Orthodox churches in particular had reported that they were not in a position to accept the proposal at this time, though some of them expressed the opinion that the western churches should feel free to take an initiative if they wished. Dr Vischer referred to the fact that the Second Vatican Council had stated that it was prepared to accept a common date for Easter if agreement among the churches could be established.

Dr Vischer indicated that, at this stage, a specific proposal would not lead to a date uniting all Christians in the celebration of Easter on the same day. He therefore suggested that the Assembly should not take action but simply express the hope that the desire to find a common date can be fulfilled in the foreseeable future by a common decision of all churches. The Executive Committee agreed with this proposal and decided to transmit a draft resolution to this effect to the Assembly.

13. FUTURE MEETINGS

It was agreed to recommend to the new Central Committee that future meetings be held as follows:

Executive Committee:	22-26 March 1976 10-12 August 1976
Central Committee:	13-22 August 1976
Core Groups:	At convenient times between March and August, particularly 16-22 May, and in connection with the Central Committee

14. EXPRESSIONS OF THANKS

The General Secretary paid tribute to Dr Kennedy, who had pioneered the Office of Education and who would be leaving the staff at the end of the year. The Executive Committee expressed its appreciation to him for all his work.

Dr Potter also expressed the profound gratitude of the staff to the Moderator, Vice-Moderator and members of the Committee for their help and support during the past seven years.

Dr Thomas, on behalf of the Officers and Executive Committee, thanked the staff for their cooperation in the suggesting and implementing of policies.

APPENDIX I

ATTENDANCE

PRESENT:

Honorary President:	Rev. Dr W.A. Visser 't Hooft
Presidents:	Dr (Mrs) K. Takeda Cho Rt Rev. Bishop Hanns Lilje Rev. Dr Ernest A. Payne
Officers:	Dr M.M. Thomas (Moderator) Miss P.M. Webb (Vice-Moderator) Rev. Dr P.A. Potter (General Secretary)
Members:	Rev. Dr I.B. Bokeleale Mr D.E. Johnson Rev. J. Langhoff Prof. Dr J.M. Lochman Rev. Dr R.J. Marshall Bishop Dr R.C. Nichols His Eminence Metropolitan Nikodim Rev. Dr J. Rossel Prof. T. Sabev Archbishop K. Sarkissian Dr T.B. Simatupang Dr R. von Weizsäcker Mrs J. Wesonga
Consultant:	Dr A. Wischmann
Staff:	Miss B. Bam Dr A.A. Brash Rev. E. Castro Rev. D. Gill Mr J. Hilke Mr C.I. Itty Dr W. Kennedy Rev. C.H. Long Prof. J. Mbiti Mr L. Niilus Mr F. Northam Dr K. Raiser Dr S. Samartha Mr B. Sjollema Miss F. Smith Dr L. Vischer Miss M. van Vredenburch Mrs M. Webb

Interpreters:	Mrs E. Delmonte Mrs T. Evdokimoff Pastor H. Lautenbach
Minute Writer:	Miss A. Burrows

APOLOGIES:

Presidents:	His Holiness Patriarch German Rev. Dr John Coventry Smith Rt Rev. A.H. Zulu
Officer:	His Eminence Metropolitan Meliton of Chalcedon
Members:	Pastor K. Gottschald Rt Hon. Earl of March

APPENDIX II

MEMBERSHIP OF SUB-COMMITTEES

Sub-Committee on Finance

Rev. Dr Ernest A. Payne (Moderator)
Rev. J. Langhoff
Rev. Dr R.J. Marshall
Bishop Dr R.C. Nichols
Rev. Dr J. Rossel
Dr R. von Weizsäcker
Mrs J. Wesonga
Dr A. Wischmann

Sub-Committee on Policy, Nominations and Staffing

Miss P.M. Webb (Moderator)
Rev. Dr I.B. Bokeleale
Dr (Mrs) K. Takeda Cho
Mr D.E. Johnson
Prof. Dr J.M. Lochman
His Eminence Metropolitan Nikodim
Archbishop K. Sarkissian
Dr T.B. Simatupang
Rev. Dr W.A. Visser 't Hooft

APPENDIX III

PROPOSAL FOR THE FUTURE OF THE ECUMENICAL INSTITUTE

I. General considerations

The proposal made in this report is based on the following general convictions:

- that the Ecumenical Institute has rendered a unique and significant service to the ecumenical movement;
- that it should therefore be continued in some form, since closing the Institute would mean an impoverishment for the WCC and the ecumenical movement as a whole;
- that the Ecumenical Institute should remain within the general responsibility of the WCC;
- that the Graduate School should be maintained in its ecumenical, academic, theological and inter-cultural orientation;
- that in some form programmes of ecumenical education should be continued;
- that the property should be retained by the WCC.

II. The Ecumenical Institute as a separate legal entity

At present the Ecumenical Institute is an integral part of the programme and the budgetary procedures of the WCC. Transforming it into a separate legal entity could not only provide the basis for a different and, in the long run, less vulnerable form of financial support for its work. It would also offer an opportunity to associate other partners to the sponsorship of the Institute and allow it to broaden its services.

The present expenditure will probably need to be reduced but this does not mean that the programme of the Ecumenical Institute would have less ecumenical significance. The Graduate School and some courses would be continued. During the summer months the Ecumenical Institute would be used for courses organized by outside groups working in the spirit of the basis and purposes of the WCC. In that period, the directors would then be available for courses and other ecumenical programmes in other countries and continents.

Among the partners to be considered are the Roman Catholic Church (or some Roman Catholic institution), the Conference of European Churches, World Confessional Families, the churches in Switzerland, academies and similar institutions. The existing links with the University of Geneva should

be maintained. Perhaps closer relations with other universities could be established. Association of such partners may open access to new constituencies so far not in contact with the WCC.

Whatever the precise legal form a substantial part of the income of the Institute would need to be provided by an endowment, and the rest by regular contributions from the co-sponsoring partners, other institutions, or individual persons. Participation and support could also take the form of secondment of staff or the sharing of responsibility for certain features of the programme.

In more detail the proposal can be described as follows:

Principle

The WCC establishes a foundation according to the Swiss Civil Code, in particular Art. 80 ff, or an association according to Swiss Civil Code Art. 60 ff. The foundation/association shall be located in Geneva and it shall maintain the Ecumenical Institute at Bossey as a place for theological training (through a Graduate School of Ecumenical Studies), as an instrument for ecumenical education (through courses and consultations) and as a conference centre. The foundation/association shall work in association with the WCC and will be guided by the principles laid down in the constitution of the WCC, in particular by its Basis.

Organization

The foundation/association shall exercise its functions through a board of trustees and through a directorial staff team of at least three members.

a. The Board of Trustees

The Board shall be representative of the major partners sharing in the responsibility for the Institute. The WCC shall participate in the election of the Board in a manner still to be specified. The Board is legally responsible for administering the foundation/association. It reports regularly to the Executive Committee of the WCC. The Board may appoint special committees to exercise some of its functions.

b. Staff

The members of the directorial staff team shall be appointed by the Board. The Board may accept secondments from churches for members of the directorial staff team. In addition, the foundation/association may accept the services of persons paid from other sources (e.g. Theological Faculty of the University of Geneva, WCC programme units, ecumenical institutes, etc.).

The directorial staff team has the following functions:

i. to administer the Ecumenical Institute in accordance with the purposes of the foundation;

ii. to carry out at least once every year a Graduate School of Ecumenical Studies on an interconfessional and inter-cultural basis in special relationship with the Theological Faculty of the University of Geneva;

iii. to hold at least two courses or consultations every year promoting ecumenical education for the whole people of God;

iv. to coordinate the programme of others interested to use the facilities of Bossey, in particular during the summer months;

v. to be available on request to churches and ecumenical bodies for activities of ecumenical and theological education in accordance with the purposes of the foundation/association.

Programme

The programme of the foundation/association shall concentrate, as indicated above, on activities of ecumenical theological training and ecumenical education. In planning and carrying out its programme the foundation/association shall work in relationship with the sub-units of the WCC. The foundation/association shall invite other ecumenical educational institutions (institutes, faculties, academies, education units of ecumenical bodies) to initiate or co-sponsor programmes either at the Ecumenical Institute or in other places.

Finances

In order to make possible the establishment of the foundation/association the WCC shall seek contributions and donations from churches or other sources towards the building up of a capital fund or endowment. All contributions and interest earnings shall exclusively be used for tasks in accordance with the purposes of the foundation/association.

While the foundation/association shall strive to build up sufficient capital to cover its programme budget, it will have to count on annual contributions as well, at least for an initial period. Care should, however, be taken that such contributions do not distract from efforts to build up the capital fund.

Fees paid by participants will continue to be an important source of income. It should be considered to introduce a differentiated daily rate. Other indirect sources of income, e.g. staff secondments etc., should be maintained as at present and possibly expanded.

Next steps

Before the official establishment of the foundation/association a fund-raising committee will have to be formed. The WCC should invite interested partners, individuals or institutions to join in this committee with a view to preparing the ground for the establishment of the foundation/association proper. In addition to its own fund-raising efforts the committee should encourage the formation of fund-raising groups in particular countries in order to build up the capital necessary for the establishment of the foundation/association.

III. Interim period

An early decision by the appropriate body, i.e. Assembly or Central Committee of the WCC, is needed in order to be able to make appeals with a view to establishing Bossey on a new financial basis. A transition or interim period will have to be provided for in order to allow the alternative financial basis to be established. The interim period will have to last probably until the end of the Graduate School in 1978, i.e. 28 February 1978.

Priorities

Maintaining the Graduate School during the two coming years should be the first priority. All other programme items which involve budget expenditure should be reviewed.

Organization

Instead of appointing a new Board of the Ecumenical Institute the Central Committee will call a small interim committee to oversee the programme activities and the transition process leading to the future form of operation of the Ecumenical Institute. The committee will have to report to the Executive Committee in 1976 about the support for the interim budget, and in summer 1976 concerning the progress made in establishing Bossey on an alternative financial basis.

Staff

The programme staff needs will be determined in relation to the programme to be maintained during the interim period. In order to reduce the fixed budget expenditure the needs in terms of non-programme staff have to be reviewed.

Finance

A complete budget for the whole interim period should be established and submitted to the Executive Committee in March 1976. Sources of income:

- special contributions from churches towards the interim budget;
- contributions and fees paid by users and participants according to increased daily rate;
- share in cost by other budgets of WCC, including sharing of staff and technical services.

IV. Procedure

a. The action of the Executive Committee will be forwarded to the Assembly, i.e. to Hearing I, to PRC I and to the Finance Committee.

b. The Assembly issues an appeal along the lines of the above resolution of the Executive Committee for the continuation of the Ecumenical Institute in a new form.

c. The Central Committee appoints the interim committee for the Ecumenical Institute.

d. The fund-raising committee will be set up in January 1976.

e. For the new budget of the Ecumenical Insitute in the interim period the General Secretary will submit to the new Executive Committee at its meeting in March 1976 a detailed plan.

f. The date for setting up the foundation or the association will be determined by the Central Committee at its meeting in summer 1976 on the basis of reports from the interim committee and the fund-raising committee.